MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2018/2019 SESSION

PEN0055 – ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

(All groups)

27 MAY 2019
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **nine** pages.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Section A and Section B.**
3. Write all your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [30 MARKS]

Text 1 (15 marks)
Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

Parkland Suicide Deaths

1 The communities of Parkland and Newtown are mourning the suicides of two students and a parent this week. The ongoing grief in these cities scarred by gun violence is now mixed with a need to remain vigilant or alert for signs of distress such as extreme sadness and social isolation in close relatives and friends. The events highlight the long-term impact of living through school shootings. "The Parkland survivors have been heroes in their advocacy efforts since the tragedy, but the deaths of these students are a sobering reminder that they are not only young advocates, but also trauma victims and gun violence loss survivors," said Micheal Anestis, co-chair of the American Association of Suicidology.

2 The National Center for PTSD estimates that 28 per cent of people who have witnessed a mass shooting develop post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD, and about a third develop acute stress disorder. Michael Dorn, executive director of Safe Havens International, points out that there were also concerning patterns between the attack at Columbine High School and a number of suicides involving former students, as well as family members of victims killed in the attack, adding that although the pattern was seen, it is challenging to attribute it solely to the mass shooting.

3 Despite the statistics, and the disheartening recent events, surviving a mass shooting does not mean children, teens and communities are permanently damaged, explained Dr. David Schonfeld, director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement. Recovery, Schonfeld insists, should be the expectation and the common goal to be achieved. It begins with understanding that communities' world views have been challenged. Children who have lived through mass shootings can experience the loss of the assumptive world upon learning about the events. "There are certain assumptions that people make every day that allow them to feel safe and secure in a world that does have a lot of dangers in it; when a child hears or lives through an event that challenges the notion of safety in a school, it really makes them question all the other ideas and concepts they have about the world," Schonfeld added.

4 The loss of the assumptive world, on top of the actual trauma, can set off a cascade of events. Immediately after a traumatic event, children and teens can have difficulty concentrating and sleeping. This in turn may lead to a decline in academic performance, which then means children and teens are experiencing academic failure for the first time. This may bring additional distress and lead to some irritability. The irritability can eventually lead to severe repercussions such as impaired social interactions, making them more suspicious and less trusting of others, he added.

5 Schonfeld explained that the aftermath of surviving a mass shooting or a similar traumatic effect should be thought of in terms of the grief and the trauma. For those who lost a loved one, the grief can persist for years, with people continuing to reprocess those losses as they move forward in their life, he said. "Then there's a trauma from being involved in an event where a threat was made against your life," he added. Both grief and trauma can be long-term, and sometimes, the second year can be more difficult than the first. "In the first year, there's a lot more support that

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is provided in general by friends and families. There is the expectation that the first holiday season may be very difficult. Families and friends rally together. The loss then persists the second year, but the support system may not be as strong, which results in a more difficult time coping.

6 Guilt is extremely common after the death of a loved one or after a crisis event, with people trying to point to what they did wrong, Schonfeld explained. At least in an unconscious level, survivors may try to find what they did wrong. "If you can say to yourself, 'if only I had been there or if only I had been more cautious or if only I had done something or not done something that I did'. That gives you the illusion that you can control future events by simply not making that mistake again," Schonfeld said. "The alternative is understanding that you had no role in this. You could not prevent it. Therefore, you can't prevent it from happening again," he added.

7 Despite the guilt, the loss of control and potential repercussions, recovery is possible and should be the goal. "You want to set the expectation for recovery, while providing sufficient support to promote that recovery and having a backup so that if individuals are struggling, we provide them even more support and assistance. We do have skills and strategies to help children and teens as we do with adults," he said. He recommends asking children what they have heard, how they feel and how we as adults can help them cope with their feelings. This is not a time to dismiss our children's worries or to provide a false sense of reassurance, but rather a time to validate their feelings and share concerns with them, he added. Simply being present can provide a window of conversation and can help parents be attuned to signs their children are not coping well. These signs include drastic changes in behaviour or mood, sleep and appetite disturbances, as well as any expression of a sense of hopelessness, he added.

Adapted from Bracho-Sanche, E. (2019, March 25). Parkland suicide deaths highlight long-term psychological impacts of mass shootings. Retrieved from https://edition.cnn.com/2019/03/25/health/mass-shooting-long-term-risk-kids/index.html

Question 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)
Instructions: *Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.*

Example:	**Grieving due to the loss of a loved one**	**(paragraph 1)**	**word: mourning**
a)	alert and observant	(paragraph 1)	
b)	an idea or concept	(paragraph 3)	
c)	a successive process	(paragraph 4)	
d)	to continue and last for a period of time	(paragraph 5)	
e)	to acknowledge or confirm	(paragraph 7)	

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Question 2 : Comprehension Questions (10 marks)
Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a) Why did the writer say that "*...the deaths of these students are a sobering reminder...* " (lines 6 -7)? (2 marks)

b) Identify the main idea of paragraph 3. (1 mark)

c) What is the ultimate impact of the loss of assumptive world to children and teens? (1 mark)

d) How are grief and trauma similar? (2 marks)

e) Instead of feeling guilty after a death or crisis, what is another coping method that a family could adopt? (2 marks)

f) Why are parents' presence important in helping their children cope after a crisis? (2 marks)

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Text 2 (15 marks)
Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

How Retailers Trick Your Brain

1 As I sit here in my home office surrounded by shopping bags and Amazon boxes, not quite sure of what is here, I wonder how it all went awry. I am a neuroscientist who has a pretty good understanding of the tricks that retailers play to get us to spend money, and yet I am just as susceptible as everyone else! Why do our brains fall for these tricks and why do we overspend during the holidays?

2 Retailers have been inventing new gimmicks to get you into their stores. Even as we find new strategies to **resist**, neuroscientists are employed at marketing agencies across the country to best figure out what is going through a consumer's brain at each point in the decision process. Here is how they do it:

3 Consumers get sucked into overspending due to a **phenomenon** that economists call "loss aversion". Fear is a primary motivator in our purchasing decisions. We have a fear of missing the really good deal or having to pay more for the same thing and lose money. Our brains have something called the amygdala, which is our emotional and primary fear center. Normally, the prefrontal cortex controls our emotional reactions to things, and keeps us from acting irrationally by calming down our fears. However, an advertiser can distract your prefrontal cortex just by displaying flashy deal signs, encouraging it to do math on how much money you might save now by buying more of something you do not actually need yet. Like an overworked parent of a toddler, it begins to weaken its resolve and the emotional toddler, or amygdala, begins to drive the decision process.

4 It took my husband nine months to replace our old washing machine because he was frozen in decision-making limbo, afraid that as soon as he purchased one, a better deal would appear. This is the same motivator that gets us to Ikea at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day or to Best Buy at 4 a.m. on Black Friday. While this fear might help my husband save money on the washing machine purchase, that same fear might also cause him to purchase an unnecessary toolset while he is there at the store because it is such a good deal. Many stores stock items at much higher prices and then discount them to draw your attention to the "sale" or "deal". I know I have fallen for this one. I eagerly snap up these deals and pat myself on the back for being smart, but then notice the exact same item regularly priced even lower at another store.

5 Nostalgia, that wistful affection for past events, is a particularly strong influencer during the holiday season, and it is shaped by **emotion**. Emotion, whether good or bad, enhances the formation of memories, recruiting more parts of the brain. Typical long-term memories are formed with specific links between the hippocampus and cortex, but emotional content will bring the amygdala into the circuit, and may change the neurotransmitters involved in the memory. All of these will intensify and enhance the memory. Therefore, hearing a nephew singing a Christmas carol, for instance, might rekindle a cascade of memories associated with that particular song. The malls are very much aware that these kinds of memories are triggered even more easily by sensory inputs such as smells, tastes and lighting effects. This might be why we are often greeted by a sensory onslaught in every mall and store we go to this month. Unsuspectingly, we find ourselves purchasing that

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box of candy that a now-deceased relative used to favour, picking up an extra decoration that might remind our loved ones of a favourite shared movie, or spending extra on spices that rekindle a childhood aroma. Our brain is searching for the "high" **associated** with this time of year.

6 Wherever you purchase gifts, there are social influences on what you buy. There is an interesting economic phenomenon called value attribution, where we imbue objects or people with qualities based on our perceived values rather than on objective data. For example, people enjoy a play more if the tickets cost more, and will return to see more shows than people given a discount. If something costs less, we **judge** it as inferior. A great example of this is when The Washington Post dressed up one of the most famous violinists of all time as a street musician and watched people stroll by without noticing. Since they had not paid for the performance, those walking by did not value the incredible music they were hearing.

7 We essentially trick ourselves into thinking that if we pay a premium for something, it must be better. It makes sense. Our brains are searching for an anchor. If two things seem pretty much the same, how do I know which to choose? Which features do I pay attention to? Humans have survived as a **social** species, and we have to rely on each other. As a result of that, when our brains are trying to make decisions, one of the shortcuts is to assume that if a lot of other people prefer something (and higher cost is often a predictor of that), then there must be a reason.

8 Much of our holiday spending is driven by spontaneous purchases. Plan ahead, resist the temptation to purchase in the moment, make notes for comparison shopping, and if the deal is actually good, then it will hold up to scrutiny and you will feel good about your purchases later. Before you blow your budget this season, remember that your brain might be fooling you into that next purchase.

Adapted from, Franssen, C. (2018, December 18). How retailers trick your brain into overspending during the holidays. *CNN: Business.* Retrieved from https://edition.cnn.com/2018/12/18/perspectives/holiday-shopping-retailers-neuromarketing/index.html

Question 1: Affixes (5 marks)

Instructions: *Fill in the blank in each question below with an appropriate word by adding a suitable prefix or suffix or by adding both prefix and suffix to the word provided.*

Example:

resist (line 7)

The burglars put up quite a bit of **resistance** when they were apprehended by the police.

a. **phenomenon** (line 10)

The success of the new artiste was _____ because she managed to sell 20 million copies in the first week her album debuted.

b. **emotion** (line 32)

The accused was inexpressive and looked _____ at his family members when the judge meted the death penalty on him.

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c. **associated** (line 46)
After finding out about the group's corrupt practices, he _____ himself so that he would not be implicated in any of their wrongdoing.

d. **judge** (line 52)
We need time to get to know someone's character well, and if we trust a person easily after just knowing them briefly, we might _____ their character and be disappointed.

e. **social** (line 59)
Humans interact _____ with each other to form rules, institutions and systems that enable them to co-exist.

Question 2 : Critical Reading (10 marks)
Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a) What could you infer when the writer said "*I wonder how it all went awry*" (line 2)? Provide evidence from the passage to support your inference. (2 marks)

b) Describe the writer's use of supporting point in paragraph 4 and justify your answer. (1 mark)

c) State the writer's overall purpose of writing the text. (1 mark)

d) Who is the intended audience of this text? (1 mark)

e) What is the general tone of the writer? (1 mark)

f) State if the sentences below are a fact or an opinion. Justify your answer.

(i) *There is an interesting economic phenomenon called value attribution, where we imbue objects or people with qualities based on our perceived values rather than on objective data.* (lines 48-50) (1 mark)

(ii) *Before you blow your budget this season, remember that your brain might be fooling you into that next purchase.* (lines 66-67) (1 mark)

g) In paragraph 5, is the writer biased against or towards retailers and advertisers? Provide evidence from the paragraph to support your answer. (2 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

Question 1 (10 marks)
Instructions: *Each sentence below contains **one** error in one of the following types: fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism or faulty modifier. Write the type of error and correct the error in your answer booklet as shown in the example below.*

Example:

0. Spending time with the family can be an important activity for children, and having family fun movie nights can be a great way to spend quality time together and **providing** them with positive attention.

i) Type of error: **parallelism**
ii) Correction: ...**provide ...**

1. Veronica asked her sister to go for scuba diving on the telephone.

2. 'Therapy' is not the best word to describe the positive effects of shopping there are other psychological rewards especially for women.

3. While fad diets help people shed weights quickly, they cannot be considered as long-term solutions for weight loss because they just provide quick and unrealistically solutions.

4. According to Christian Nordqvist, stress, in everyday terms, is a feeling that people have when they overloaded and struggling to cope with demands.

5. Despite being seventy years old, most physical exercises are still able to be performed by Mrs Smith.

6. Boeing has issued changes to controversial control systems linked to two fatal crashes of its 737 Max planes in the last five months, it is still not certain when the planes, that were grounded worldwide this month, will be allowed to fly.

7. With countless restaurant partnerships across 40 countries, the service provided by Food Panda is so convenient that no matter where you are, a simple order placement through its mobile application gets your order to you faster than you could ever imagine.

8. Although building codes establish the minimum requirements for the design of a high-rise building. Additional life safety features are often necessary to mitigate the issues in fire-fighting and rescue operations.

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9. Online learning has become one of the most popular ways of gaining access to education; research indicates that online learning is beneficial for students as it boosts their retention rates and stimulating their creativity.

10. Thai food with its blended taste in the world of sweet, sour, bitter and salty is one of the most popular cuisines and is also savoured for its healthy, fresh and exotic ingredients.

Question 2 (10 marks)
Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example: No	Line	Error	Correction
0	**3**	**...and architecture...**	**...and architectural...**

A Mysterious Storm

It took barely 15 minutes. An intense, powerful but brief storm swept across north-west Europe in one summer evening almost 350 years ago. It left social, economic and **architecture** imprints on the city of Utrecht that is felt to this day.

The late 17th century was a challenging time for the Netherlands. The Dutch found themselves in a war against several foreign forces. Including the French and English. The year 1672 in particular is an infamous year in Dutch history. It is known as the 'Disaster Year' because it marked an invasion by forces of the Dutch Republic from France, England and Germany. Taking all the money there was, Utrecht was left completely broke by the French. The city was prepared for a major natural disaster, given that exactly two years later such a disaster struck insufficiently.

It was a typical warm and humid summer day on August 1, 1674. Towards the end of the day, thunderstorms developed, and the storms escalated. By about 6 pm, a devastating tempest had begun ripping apart houses along its path, uprooting trees from the earth and hurled objects through the air, leaving a wake of extensive destruction in its wake.

Dozens of eyewitnesses gave their accounts on the damage inflicted by this storm according to newspaper reports, in Brussels, trees were uprooted, and house facades were flung. In Strassbourg, hailstones that fell were as large as babies' heads.

A Dutch merchant named Gerrit Jansz Kooch penned a poem in the aftermath, describing how boats in Amsterdam were plucked from the water and were transported over several fields before crashing down. Kooch also narrated the story about one farmer after the storm had passed who could not recognise his own fields. The trees that bordered his land were all gone in a split second.

Utrecht seems to have borne the brunt of the damage the effects of the storm are visible to this day. The Dom cathedral is the most obvious sign of the storm. The central part of the building was flattened by the tempest. Many more of Utrecht's churches were damaged too. Some have no towers, which is strange. One church

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originally had two towers. It still does, the tops were blown off in the storm, so the two towers are not similar anymore.

Witnessing the damage of the church, two specific points were highlighted by visitors. One is that the damage was unusually localised. Buildings in one street have been flattened while those in the next have escaped any significant damage. The other point is that the storm was very short-lived. There are several accounts of farmers who took cover as they saw this frontal system coming. They described how it took only 15 minutes for it to pass. Then, when they stood up, the sky was completely clear, bright and calmness again.

Adapted from Barras, C. (2017, April 10). In 1674, a mysterious storm devastated an entire city. Retrieved from http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20170407-in-1674-a-mysterious-storm-devastated-a-dutch-city

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